

PRESIDENTS' DAY EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Attempts to Challenge Diversity

By Scott Schwartz
Features Editor

The issue of diversity has been raised on the MBA campus rather frequently in the past few weeks. The assembly speech by Professor Kevin Kruse, the documentary by the senior seminar class, and the lunch discussions regarding diversity have all contributed to a growing awareness among the students and faculty of the need for diversity, and the universal conclusion drawn from these actions was simple: MBA needs more non-white students. The question then becomes, how?

Do we go about increasing diversity on campus the way that some other private schools have, through athletics? Possibly. Some schools seem to have recruited African-American athletes who, if not athletic, would not have had the opportunity to attend a private school. This process, however, is not necessarily for the purpose of diversifying, but rather it is for the single purpose of bettering a sports program. So this process of recruiting African-American athletes could seem selfish. Additionally, recruiting African-Americans solely for sports plays into the stereotype that all African-Americans are

high-jumping, fast-running, basketball-playing machines. If a school is going to recruit the best athletes, the majority of whom are African-American, then a school should also recruit the best artists, or musicians, or scholars. It must be said, though, that regardless of the motives of these schools, they are diversifying.

At MBA, we struggle to diversify. We have few minority students and even fewer minority members of the faculty. We have no African-American Board members.

We don't actively recruit for athletics as some schools do, meaning the best black athletes aren't generally drawn into MBA. So we have to find a way to diversify. Many people have said that MBA can only function as a healthy, complete school when its minorities are proportional to those of its city. These people say that diversity is educational, that diversity will teach us how to function in the real world. With these people I would argue. Yes, diversity is essential, and it teaches us

about the real world, but, let's face it, MBA is not the real world. It does not pretend to be the real world. If MBA really tried to prepare us for the diversity of the real world, we would have women in the school. After all, women are in the real world. We would have not only more African-Americans, but more Hispanics, and more Asians, and more Indians, for these groups are not well represented at MBA. We can not try to be the real world; MBA is an elitist school. But we still need diversity.

Then here is the solution. While we need more diversity at the school, we cannot solve our problems by pumping more minorities into the MBA system. Rather, we need to be able to relate better with the few minorities already on our campus before we can add others. We must make MBA a community that embraces every student. Until we can truly learn about our few fellow minority students and truly understand them as people, rather than representatives of their races, we can never solve our problem of diversity, no matter how many minorities we put onto the campus.

Look Inside for Ray's
take on Diversity



Recent MLK Society Inductees

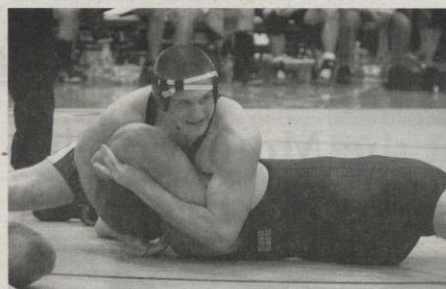
A Glimpse Into MBA's Varsity Wrestling Team

By Andrew Gibbs
Sports Editor

Mental Toughness leads Wrestlers to Success: A Talk with Two Wrestlers

Ben Bartholomew is an animal. His physical frame alone transforms challenging competitors into hopeful opponents. The junior wrestler has dominated his competition and racked up an astonishing array of achievements. He was named the Outstanding Wrestler at the Blackhorse Invitational after coming in first, finished 3rd at the McCallie Invitational, and 2nd at the Father Ryan Invitational.

Bartholomew's secret to success may be controlling his energy before a match. He says, "I try to stay as calm as possible and not think about my match until I am next. When I do prepare, I get in my mind that I am going to beat the guy because I am the best and no one can beat me...I know it is arrogant but you have to be confident going into a match or your opponent will push you around."



Bartholomew dominates an opponent

Despite all the accomplishments already under his belt, Bartholomew is looking to push himself even harder in preparation for the final tournament of the year and will not allow for any doubt going into this tournament. "The practice room is where tournaments are won. Our coaches have done a great job pushing us this year, especially for the important matches. We all encourage each other to run and lift extra because until you get in your mind that you

are ready you will never be fully prepared," says Ben of the final part of the season.

John Michael Simpson may not seem like the most intimidating person on campus.

How does he do it? John Michael tries to explain his desire, "When my opponent is putting up a good fight, I want to score on him and put him on his back to send a message that he can't win. In dual meets, when we need points to beat BA or Ryan or Christian Brothers, I feel responsible for getting the pin, which is worth the most points (6)."

Simpson's deep passion for winning is clear, and his achievements illustrate that winning spirit. After a brilliant season and career of wrestling with the Big Red, Simpson looks to add one more exclamation point at the season's final tournament. He says of the upcoming finale, "By now I am in good condition and mainly focus on critiquing my technique. At night before I go to bed, I like to do some pushups and pull-ups for upper body strength. I expect myself to win because hypothetically I should win. I have beaten all my top competitors before. I also expect to wrestle my personal best at this tournament because it will be my last one for MBA."

but once this wrestling machine steps on the mat, he becomes a terror. Simpson has given opponents nightmares throughout the season. A 29-2 record proves that he has been a force all year and a huge contributor to the Big Red's success. Early in the season he won the Blackhorse Invitational in Memphis and then placed 2nd at McCallie over Christmas break. Also, Simpson finished 2nd at the Father Ryan Invitational.



THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Ray Rambles

By Ray Henson
Staff Writer

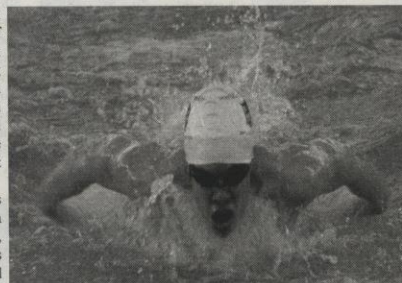
Recently in assembly, the students were shown one of the senior seminar videos titled *Who's That Black Kid?*. The first fact in the film that shocked me was that the first black student graduated from MBA in 1987. Also offered in the film were some opinions of a few of the black students attending MBA, opinions with which I agreed on many points, principal among them the dilemma of diversity at MBA.

Diversity is something with which MBA has struggled, rising from its background and reputation as a wealthy, predominantly white school. MBA has made some strides toward creating a more diverse and welcoming community. One point brought up in the documentary that I found interesting was that many at MBA initially thought that creating diversity would cause a decrease in standards.

I believe that MBA should choose from the applicant pool the most qualified students, regardless of race. If the best qualified students to attend MBA are white, so be it. A black student with fewer credentials and worse grades should not be placed over a white student with better credentials.

That being said, if a school such as MBA is predominantly white, then there will be fewer applicants from non-white ethnic groups applying. This means there will be a doubly difficult effort to identify and recruit capable minorities.

Diversity at MBA in the future will also hinge upon what happens at other schools. In our quest to stay on top as the premier college prep school of Nashville, we have to find students for the slots that were previously filled by Ensworth



Tom swims the butterfly students. I believe that the opening of the Ensworth High School will help MBA in its goal to diversify, for many slots at MBA were once automatically filled with Ensworth boys. We now have to select students from a wider group of schools and see how they perform with our rigorous curriculum. This is a great opportunity and should allow MBA to increase its minority population. We have made strides to move toward a more diverse environment that hopefully is best for the education of its students.

Varsity Swimming

By Tom Wiseman
Staff Writer

The M.B.A. swim team enters the State Championship this year with the strongest group in at least six years. Curtis Lovelace is the favorite to win the 100 Breaststroke and a close second in the 200 Individual Medley. A large group of

talented freshmen brings promise for the future and adds an incredible depth to this year's team. With a possibility of three relays in the finals, the team looks forward to a strong finish to its best season in this millennium.

The swim team needs all the support it can get at the State Meet, **Friday, February 23rd and Saturday, February 24th. Finals begin at 6:00 p.m.** Last year we had a few

sophomores come to watch Curtis dominate. Still, guys from Farragut dress up with pompoms and paint themselves blue. They look ridiculous. Brentwood is loud and obnoxious every year, even though half of their team is made up of girls, all of whom are slow and presumably without talent.

Our team, now able to rival the state's swimming powerhouses, needs fans to show just that. In a few years M.B.A.'s program will be the best in Tennessee. Please come and support the team's rise to prominence both at M.B.A. and in the state.



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Lundy Listens...to a Weather Report

Dr. Lundy Snarls at Snow Snakes

By Jonathon Lundy
Bell Ringer Staff Psychologist
(whose credentials may not stand up to close scrutiny, which does not matter anyway, if you are seriously disturbed)

Dear Dr. Lundy,

It happens every year at about this time: the weather makes me hopelessly and dangerously depressed. It seems that about every week, some weather forecaster or another predicts snow for the area, leading to just about every single person in the greater Nashville metropolitan area going insane: they rush to the grocery store to stock up on bread and milk; they rush to the hardware store to buy snow shovels and salt for their driveways. And, of course, nothing ever happens thirteen out of fourteen times. But all of the hype surrounding these non-events gets me excited (as I am a big fan of winter weather), only to have my exultation

eventually crash and burn. My doctor thinks that this emotional roller-coaster is giving me hypertension; I don't want the next botched forecast to give me a heart attack! How can I cure this problem?
-Dreaming of a White Someday

Dear Dreaming,

At the risk of stating the obvious, my advice to you is this: stop watching the weather forecasts. What point is there in worrying about what may or may not happen a week in the future instead of taking advantage of what's happening outside your door right now—even if it's not nearly what you wanted at all?

The plain and simple truth is that no weather forecaster knows at all what tomorrow holds in store for us. They can look at their models and predict whatever they want—and sometimes they might actually get it right—but meteorologists aren't inherently any more able to predict the future than tarot card users, crystal-ball gazers, palm readers, or divinely-inspired

prophets; their guess is as valid as yours. They are just the only ones foolish enough to go around broadcasting their wild guesses to the world for big money.



This will never happen in Nashville

At the end of the day, it seems to me that these so-called "forecasters" are only mere tools of that Evil Liberal Big Media Machine whose goal is monetary profit above all else. They spread some rumors about the ever-so-slight possibility of winter weather (even if they also forecast it to be fifty degrees that day) so that the paranoid and excitable people out there (like you!) can't help but tune in. Everyone runs out to all the stores and spends money like crazy (supporting the sponsors of the aforementioned Big Media), all for what turns out to be no reason at all. And then, the day after, when no one at all is calling

for snow, the world wakes up to four or five inches of snow on the ground; everyone is stuck inside and has nothing to do but to—

you guessed it—watch television, that greatest bastion of Evil Big Media.

If you've ever watched the worst weather-based offender in Evil Big Media, the Weather Channel (which sees the threat of the next Katrina as nothing but a great ratings sweep), you know that there's no actual work involved in forecasting.

Anyone who

watches that network for a decent period of time can't help but notice that nearly all the female anchors and forecasters have a disturbing tendency to go on maternity leave every couple of years or so. The reason is quite simple, if you think about it: all that time that they aren't spending forecasting is available for them to use in more...extracurricular...activities in the workplace, if you know what I mean (which you certainly do).

So anyway, just get those evil weather forecasters out of your home and your life. You have eyes, and you probably have a window in your house too: use them!

Dr. L

Another Look at the Belle Meade Police

By Lindsay Bohannon
Staff Writer

Whenever thoughts of the Belle Meade police come to mind, many people envision negative incidents such as those mentioned in Scott Schwartz' article in the last issue of *The Bell Ringer*. Though I do not disagree that the Belle Meade Police can be deaf to reason and logic, I decided that we should at least try to find some of the positive situations our students have experienced with the police. I faced many obstacles in the hunt and came up nearly empty-handed, but it turns out that these officers actually do help the community. Using the same words from the Chief's mouth which were used in the previous issue, I will give an account of some of the positive experiences students have had.

Police Chief Timothy Eads says, "I thought it [being a policeman] would be a good way to give back to the community and be a part of it." Brandon Hays shared with me his positive experience with the Belle Meade police: "My friends and I were sitting on the edge of the grassy median of Belle Meade Boulevard at the intersection of Jackson Boulevard. We were just talking and about to walk to a friend's house when all of a sudden a policeman pulls up out of nowhere. We were really nervous because we thought that we would get in big trouble, knowing how strict the Belle Meade police are when they find a young person out late at night. After we told the policeman what we were doing, he proceeded to tell us that as long as we had on reflective gear, we were all right. Then, trying to be affable and convivial, he told us how he had just finished a big police chase down Harding

Road that, he claimed, was pretty intense. He seemed to enjoy just chatting with some of the citizens of his fair city." I guess that was his way of being a part of the community.

Chief Eads also says, "Officers have to use their discretion [when giving tickets]." One night during this summer I was on my way back home from the new *Pirates* movie. It was 11:30 so I was nervous about being pulled over past curfew. Sure enough, I got pulled over less than 100 feet from my street because my car had a busted tail light. The officer casually walked up and asked what my reason was for violating the law. I responded by telling him that I had gone to see a movie, and immediately he glanced at my Superman shirt and asked if I had seen the movie *Superman*. It turns out that he was a Superman fanatic and had seen the movie five times. After ten minutes of listening to his opinion of why the world needs Superman, he finally let me off without a ticket or warning. Once again, the policemen seem to be just people, often quite personable and conversational, with the same likes and dislikes as you or me.

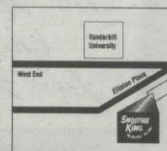
Although the Belle Meade Police can be stubborn and will sometimes issue tickets rashly, on occasion they will let you go with just a warning. If you are worried about getting pulled over, your best option is to avoid Belle Meade altogether. To second Scott from the previous issue, I also advise rerouting. Even Chief Eads, though, will say that if you are breaking the law, he and the citizens of Belle Meade do not want you in their city.

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Math and English News

By Pat Killian
Staff Writer

The Mathletes Triumph Again

The Big Red Mathletes have thus far dominated the city-wide Math League. After two tests (the first in November, the second in December), MBA is maintaining a first-place position with 1904 points; trailing closely is M.L. King High School with 1825 points. Ensworth High School and USN round-out the top competitors with 1463 and 1373 points, respectively.

On a course level, MBA is first in Algebra I, second in Geometry, a dismal seventh in Algebra II, fifth in Pre-Calculus, and first in both Statistics and Calculus. Compared to the other schools in the league, Montgomery Bell has the most well-rounded squad; this dominance obviously stems from the school's excellent curriculum and skillful Math Department. The Algebra II team has not performed as well as it had hoped simply because they can't get all the top Algebra II students together for the contest due to athletics commitments such as basketball, swimming, and wrestling.

Some key competitors on the Big Red team are Andrew Cho (Algebra I), Carter Callaway (Geometry), Andrew Powell (Algebra II), Austin Branstetter (Pre-Calculus), Brian Swenson (Statistics), Rahul Sastry (Statistics), Connor Shope (Statistics), Jonathon Lundy (Calculus), and Kyle Davis (Calculus).

There are two tests left in the Math League competition (February 8, March 1), and Mr. Elliott always welcomes

newcomers. Be sure to speak with him if you are interested. Freshman Neil Ryan had this to say about the competition: "It's really fun...okay, not really, but you get free food."

In other news, MBA students of all grade levels just completed the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 8, 10, or 12. Montgomery Bell always does well on these tests with several near-perfect scores. Andrew Powell had the highest AMC 8 score with twenty-three out of twenty-five questions answered correctly.

Poetry Survivor Game

Are you simile savvy? A master of metaphors? Can you not help but rhyme and speak in dactylic pentameter? If you answered "No" to all these questions, as is mostly likely the case, have no fear, help is coming soon, in April, in fact. For the first time in the school's history, the English department will be sponsoring a month long celebration of poetry to, as Dr. Batten, director of the upper school festivities, puts it, "encourage students to read poetry outside of the classroom."

Poetry Month at MBA will encompass several different school-wide activities, some yet to be finalized. The English department hopes to have poetry readings at assemblies throughout the month, much like Mr. Rundberg's performances for Black History month. Ideally, faculty members would share their favorite poems with the assembly and offer an explanation of why they like them. However, the plans for these readings are not yet set in stone, so the department is making no promises.

A Day in the Life of an MBA Senior



You okay, Nutkis?

Another major activity will be a Poetry Survivor game. In this competition, any member of MBA's community (students, faculty or staff) will be eligible to submit to a special folder on Firstclass his favorite poem with an explanation of its appeal. The Poetry Poohbah (a certain English teacher) will then post these submissions anonymously on a website accessible through MBA's webpage. After all entries are in, the contestants will vote each other off week by week until only a handful remain. These finalists will

be read at assembly and subjected to one final vote. The overall winner will collect a generous \$250 prize. The game is already finalized and will definitely be present among the celebrations, so be picking out your favorite verses!

This game and all of April are sure to be a blast as long as there is good participation by the students. So appreciate your school, and appreciate the English department by getting psyched up to appreciate poetry for the month of April.

A New Face on Campus

By Pat Killian
Staff Writer

Score another for MBA's diversity factor! Being welcomed to campus this year is freshman Jichao Deng, a Chinese citizen who will spend the next four years attending high school in the USA. Many guys already know Jichao from seeing him around school, and the community has taken to him very well. So, by popular demand, *The Bell Ringer* spoke with Jichao to uncover the boy behind the accent.

Jichao Deng, son of Zhiling Li and Zhongyuan Deng, formerly lived in Beijing, the capital of China, where he attended a public school of high quality, higher than most in this country. His favorite subject was, and still is, math because, as he explained, he is good at it; his least favorite was English, which in China is studied from first to eighth grade and into high school. When asked why he disliked the language, Jichao said, "Because I'm Chinese."

He is an only child, for in China families are not allowed to have more than one child unless both parents are single children (Jichao's parents were not). He had a rabbit named Hua Hua and led a good life under a government whose communism apparently goes unnoticed in daily life. But despite his school's relatively good quality of education, Jichao's parents wanted him to come to America and live with his aunt and uncle

to study in a private high school in order to obtain the best education possible. Imagine if American parents were so academically competitive!

So far, Jichao is enjoying life on the Hill, saying MBA is a much better school than his previous Chinese one. He gets along with the other students very well, and when asked about his tactics for fitting in, he said that the best way is to learn more English. Those who have spoken to him know he is more bilingual than any student in an AP modern language but is still a little sketchy on some abstract topics, which is perfectly understandable. In sports, Jichao managed the freshman football team in the fall and just recently made the riflery team. His experiences in American schooling have encouraged him to go on to an American college after graduation.

Jichao obviously represents a significant source of Chinese culture, and an opportunity for the school to be culturally enlightened cannot be passed up. A well-known part of Asian society is the antipathy toward other Asian peoples. Jichao elaborated on the topic, revealing that the Chinese think Japanese people are iffy, but Koreans are "okay." The Taiwanese are not a separate people group because, in contrast to our Western views, Taiwan is just another part of China. On the subject of politics (which is a topic not easily conveyed), Jichao said the communist government is not an overbearing force at all, and its impact on individuals is quite like that of the American government here. In fact, when asked about Internet

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Animals Among Us: Episode 3

By Harrison Brown
Staff Writer

Pseudonym:
Mr. John Lanier

Real Name:
Soricomorpha Talpidae

This winter season marks yet another unveiling of an animal among us. Far too long have we let this individual remain unexposed as he continues to wreak havoc on the MBA community.

Math teacher Mr. Lanier has fooled us all. While we all rest peacefully, only a select few of us know that this man is really a mole. With all the excitement and personality of a silent auction, "Coach" Lanier seems to have the unique capability to hide himself, unlike Mr. Caldwell, whose blatantly loud characteristics alerted *The Bell Ringer* to his true nature at once. This investigation began with an anonymous tip-off from a jealous coworker. Unfortunately, Mr. Compton failed to realize that the purpose of an anonymous tip-off is not to fold the paper and write your name in humongous letters so that everyone knows that you were the one who tattled. But we were nonetheless glad to accept this ticket for investigation.

We decided to begin the investigation with simple observation of habits and, much to our surprise, were quite skeptical of the results. Even a mole has more than one pair of pants in his wardrobe and probably does not have enough time on his hands to change the name of every person he meets to a play on words, as in the instance of Clayton Foster, who was conveniently referred to as "bananas." After establishing a stake-out in the cafeteria, we saw Mr. Lanier prepare his lunch by scattering a handful of chips across his plastic tray, grabbing a 2% milk carton, and sitting down. Given that Mr. Lanier did not have the motor skills to place the chips in a bowl, he presented himself as a prime suspect, displaying the mole's blindness to our investigative team.

In order to achieve further proof, we set up some interviews to confirm our suspicions. We started local, staying close to the suspect within the math department. The forced interrogation of Dr. Shackleford was unsuccessful, for he apparently trained himself to sustain extreme amounts of torture in case someone might try to obtain information about the AP statistics exam. Even more disappointing, we failed to acquire information in our second attempt



Which is the mole?

to discover more about Mr. Lanier, as Mr. Herring threw himself out the window to protect the school from learning a horrible truth. But in our third approach, we discovered a lead when asking soccer coach Mr. Klausner if he has seen anything suspicious. He replied, "Well, there was this one time when I saw him out on the soccer field randomly digging holes and dancing in them. Until now, I thought nothing of it, but your accusations make sense, especially since he tied up Mr. Norton to get the shovel...."

With several pieces of key evidence, we have established a very convincing case that Mr. Lanier is indeed a mole, especially with the new discovery of several complaint reports filed by Mr. Tate

that Mr. Lanier had been hiding in the corner of his closet with all the lights off. Mr. Tate is also convinced that it is Mr. Lanier who has been stealing from the mini-fridge under his desk. The evidence is clear that Mr. Lanier is a prime suspect in the case of moleness. We as a community must keep a watchful eye to assure that his presence is not one we regret.



Stranger on Campus

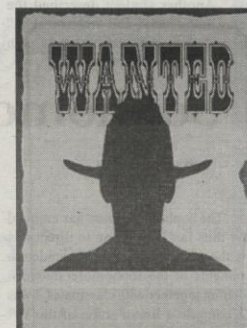
By Neil Ryan
Staff Writer

In recent weeks a strange man with no relation to MBA has been seen on campus trying to scam both students and faculty. Senior Carver Morgan, for one, experienced the scam. This man came up to Carver and said that he had locked his keys in his car and needed a ride to get a new key. Carver and a couple of his friends, being the altruistic gentlemen MBA at its best can produce, said that they would help. They drove him to Kroger where the fellow claimed that he could buy a key. Upon arrival at Kroger, the man asked to borrow some money, assuring our guys that he would pay it back once he unlocked his car and got his wallet.

He then went into Kroger and soon came back out pretending that he had the key in his pocket. Carver and his friends then drove this man back to where he said his car was. There was apparently no car, and the guy took off with Carver's money.

The same man has used another scam. Crying, he approached the father of freshman Alex Apple and claimed that he had gotten lost from Cheatham County. He also needed money to feed his hungry baby, since he was temporarily broke. Mr. Apple gave the man his sympathy and some money. Upon receiving the money, the man left and did not return.

Carver Morgan describes this strange man as, "clean cut, fairly short, wearing a collared shirt, and having dark hair." In addition, this man is apparently not



very smart, for he approached senior Zach Richardson four times with the exact same story each time. This scam artist is wanted by the police and any sightings of him should be reported. Do not give him money or sympathy.

The truly unfortunate result of these stories is the cynicism they cause. In the future, Carver and others will be very skeptical about the needs of those who appear less fortunate or needing help. No one likes to be scammed. We can not help but recall the old but still pertinent saying, "Cheat me once, shame on you. Cheat me twice, shame on me."

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New Student

Continued from page 4

restrictions, Jichao replied incredulously, "It is better in China! Here, my uncle blocks it!"

The Montgomery Bell community has done a great job welcoming Jichao into its midst, and he is enjoying himself wholeheartedly. Students should be aware and take advantage of Jichao's valuable worldly knowledge and feel free to pick his brain like these reporters have done. Jichao is a wonderful addition to the student body, and everyone should be glad to have him with us.

Chunbum's Wikipedia Insight of the Issue

By Chunbum Park
Staff Writer

Over the next several issues, Chunbum will be exploring the Wikipedia phenomenon. In this issue, he discusses whether it is a credible source for school work.

Several informal in-class surveys at MBA resulted in no conclusive results, as *The Bell Ringer* meeting sample showed nearly all "Nay" to the question "Do you believe that Wikipedia is a credible source?" while Dr. Shackelford's 7th period Statistics class showed 100% "Yay." Furthermore, the samples were convenience samples, not simple random samples with

size equal to or greater than 30. And answers were much more complex, including "I use Wikipedia, but I don't think it's credible," and "Wikipedia's reliable on some subjects, but on others it's not." [1]

Attempting to reason with the "Nay"ers produced repeated comments on the vandalisms at Wikipedia – that Wikipedia cannot be reliable because of the vandalisms, even if they are fixed on a daily basis. However, this logic is a complete fallacy. Just as misprinting cannot be prevented by even the most widely recognized publishers, (e.g. the MBA AP Statistics book has errors that have required several in-class corrections), vandalism is

an inevitable part of the encyclopedia. In addition, most vandalism is obvious and not disabling, and the users have the option to check on the history if they suspect false information.



Freshman News

By Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

The Class of 2010 this year has nineteen students new to MBA and MBA's customs, and those nineteen had a taste of their first MBA exams this year. A comparison of our exams to those of other schools is quite revelatory of how different our exams are.

The reactions of these new students varied greatly, but the general reaction was how hard the exams were. One student actually enjoyed his exams compared to last year, expressing his joy in "having a whole day to study for [the exams]." Another student described the exams as both "hard" and "manageable." One new student changed his study plan

to compensate for the strenuous exams, but said "with a lot of preparation, I did fine." One of his peers felt the same way about exams as we all do, exclaiming, "I'm glad they're over."

Freshman Basketball: The dominant Freshman Basketball team is now 14-0, winning all of their games by at least 12 points! The Big Red even scored a 57-29 victory against a team from Franklin High School which had scored over 100 points in their last game. The successful season has been greatly a team effort, shown in a 66-34 victory over Centennial in which every team member scored. The success was carried over into the next game, a 64-30 win over rival Father Ryan, in which 10 out of 12 team members scored. More than a month later, the Big Red defeated Ryan again, 59-37.

Sophomore Scene

By Fadi Pulus
Staff Writer

The sophomore class has enjoyed the year thus far. I am going to direct this part of the column toward the academic achievements of the sophomore students. After getting together with classmates, I was able to compile a list of some of the 10th grade's outstanding scholars. Some of the results are down below; congrats to everyone who made the list and keep up the effort as we round out the year.

English II Regular: Crawford Standard, Sam Lincoln, Ian Preston

English II Honors: Rahul Sastry, Brian Swenson, Connor Shope, Wade Longmire

Algebra II Regular: Nicholas Caprioli, Vic Goetz, Austin Archer, Austin Evans

Algebra II Honors (This year and last year): Edward Powell, Brian Swenson, Rahul Sastry, Connor Shope, Wade Longmire

Chemistry Regular: Ian Preston, Sam Page, Houston Creighton, Clark Benton

Chemistry Honors: Rahul Sastry, Brian Swenson, Karl Mecklenborg, Connor Shope, Wade Longmire

American History Regular: Connor Shope, Will Holt, Hicks Woolwine

American History AP: Rahul Sastry, Brian Swenson, Sam Page, Karl Mecklenborg, Baker Mulherin

This list was composed from both teachers' and peers' input. Keep it up, everyone. Congratulations to everyone on their great work.

In athletics, the winter season has just officially wrapped up. Congrats to the Bowling team on a great season with help by sophomores Will Andrews, Brian Swenson, and Houston Creighton. With the hockey season nearing its end, the sophomores have proved very effective in goal scoring, led by Crawford Standard with aid from Allen Miller. Come out and support these guys by coming to their next playoff game. Wrestling also is about to end. Sophomores Jeff Francis, Dent Shillinglaw, Bo Buchanan, and various others were crucial to a good season, as they all came in with great pins. Come out and support the sophomores as we enter the spring season strong with many athletes competing in soccer, track and field, and baseball.

Support the MBA Thespians as they perform *Nothing Serious*



Thursday the
22nd,
Friday the 23rd,
and Saturday the
24th
at 7:00PM

Junior Jargon

By Ian Snyder
Staff Writer

The junior class has had an exciting beginning of the year. Juniors are contributing to every aspect of MBA. At the recent blood drive juniors were able to give for the first time ever, since the age was lower this year. Our class gave close to one-half of the forty-four pints given by students.

Juniors in sports are helping MBA's teams in their quest for success. In basketball juniors such as Preston Bailey, William Davis, and Alfonza Knight played big roles in MBA's wins over tough opponents Glenciff, Davidson Academy, David Lipscomb, and Father Ryan. With only two more games until the state tournament, it's safe to say the team is in good hands with these amazing junior players.

In wrestling junior leadership has been provided by Christian Waddey and Luke Bellet. In the state duals MBA defeated Christian Brothers, but had heart-breaking

losses to Baylor and Brentwood Academy. Let's hope the juniors dominate at the upcoming state individual tournament.

In swimming junior Curtis Lovelace remains unbeatable as the nation's number one 200m breaststroke swimmer for his age. Tyler Ramsden also plays a major role for MBA's swim team.

The hockey team is being led by junior Chris Fike, who, with thirty-five points, has scored more points than anyone. MBA hockey is currently ranked third in the state, with the tournament as the next event for the team.

The junior class has been extremely successful in fundraising for the Prom. We have raised over \$21,000 and are still going strong. Juniors are hard at work finalizing all of the plans from music to set-building. It's safe to say that this coming prom will be a huge success due to junior leadership. The junior class is hard at work planning for the rest of this year and doesn't plan on stopping any time soon.



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Jeff Interviews William Davis

By Jeff Eberle
Sports Editor

Late Friday afternoon, I had the pleasure of interviewing William Davis, junior point guard on the MBA Varsity basketball team. His quiet and reserved manner are just two of his unique qualities. The following questions and answers will help MBA students know just a little bit more about this humble athlete.

Jeff: When did you start playing basketball?

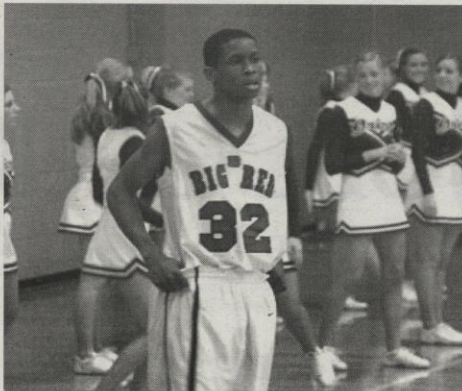
William: I started playing when I was six years old at the Tusculum church league. My first sport was baseball, and I tried other sports, and one of those others was basketball. I wanted to be like Michael Jordan.

J.: Who has had the biggest impact on your playing career?

W.: My Dad has had a huge impact, but I have had so many great coaches including Coach Anglin and Coach McMahan. Both those two men improved my shooting ability by telling me to hold my follow-through and keep my shoulder in. My Dad taught me to play really tough and to play solid defense. He never gave up on me, which kept me going.

J.: What is your most memorable game playing for the Big Red?

W.: It was at Cheatham County. It was my first double digit game. I also dunked, which was pretty cool. (The first time William tried to dunk, and also was successful at a dunk, was in a freshman practice.)



William catches his breath during a heated game

J.: Is it embarrassing if a player misses a dunk?

W.: It's a simple question- either you can or you cannot. If you have the adrenaline and confidence, it is as easy as a lay-up.

J.: Who is your favorite NBA player and why?

W.: It was Michael Jordan, then Kobe Bryant, then T-Mac, but now it is Chauncey Billups. I respect the way Billups passes, shoots, and makes great decisions. He does his job.

J.: What NBA player would you like to play with?

W.: Either LeBron James or Shaq. They are great team players. They recognize other people's talents. I like how LeBron always says, "Pass first and shoot later," even

when he scores thirty a night." Shaq is just so dominant.

J.: Who are some of your favorite coaches either in the pro or college game?

W.: Roy Williams and Bobby Knight.

J.: William, you are the only non-senior starter on the Varsity team. What leadership qualities have you noticed?

W.: Even though they are not vocal, the seniors lead by example. They motivate you to keep trying and don't give up.

J.: Favorite MBA teacher?

W.: Mrs. Christeson

J.: Favorite Band/Singer?

W.: Lil' Wayne

J.: Favorite Food?

W.: Catfish

J.: Thanks for giving your fans at *The Bell Ringer* your time and your thoughts.

**Support the MBA
Varsity Basketball
Team tonight at 7:30
as they take on John
Paul II at MBA.**

Swimming Success

By Jimmy Balser
Staff Writer

Last Friday was the best showing the MBA swim team has had at the Region Championship Meet in years. Only the defending champs from Brentwood High school passed us, as we finished in second place.

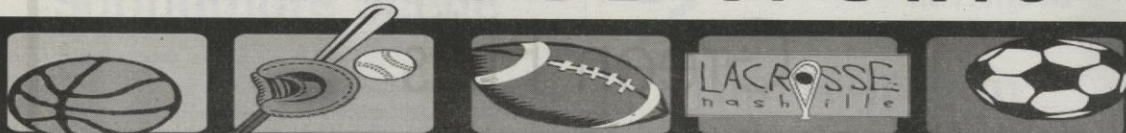
This accomplishment can be attributed to the impressive leadership of coaches Villavicencio, Trembley, and Carter and veteran MBA swimmers like Curtis Lovelace and Tom Wiseman.

This year's freshmen class also provided some really good swimmers and gave the Big Red some depth it has not had in a long time. These youngsters allowed us to swim to better results in the relays.

Some of the more impressive results include 3rd-place relay finishes in both the 200 Medley and the 400 Free Relay by Wiseman, Lovelace, Jack Murfee, and Pat Killian. It also should be noted that Curtis Lovelace broke the region record for the 100 Breaststroke. This record was previously held by Jonathan Baird, who graduated from MBA in 1999.

Besides the four swimmers listed above, huge contributions were made to the victory by swimmers Tyler Ramsden, Shep Patterson, Rob Higham, Seth Akers-Campbell, and Tyler Leroy. The team hopes to ride this wave of winning swimming to even greater success in the State Championship Meet which is in Nashville at the Sportsplex on Friday and Saturday, February 23rd and 24th.

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9th Grade Basketball Team Goes Undefeated

By Alex Apple
Staff Writer

The 9th-grade basketball team had a great season, finishing with a 16-0 record and the league championship. Under the

the leading scorer. In the words of Holden Mobley, "We came out and overcame adversity, putting the name on the front of our jerseys before the name on the backs of our jerseys."

Then a few games later, the team got all it could handle from a good MUS team. The Big Red came out on top 56-44. Brentwood High School then gave the team another good game; we won with balanced scoring from Holden Mobley (15), Michael Seitz (11), Alex Apple (10), and Tyler Paslick (8). The Big Red went through the rest of the season rolling, beating rival Father Ryan twice by



Taking the shot
excellent guidance of Coach Howard Pride, former point guard at Vanderbilt, the Big Red built this excellent freshman season from two very successful years in the Junior School.

The team started off the year with a tough game against Brentwood High School. Then, winning several games in a row by big margins, the Big Red played Ensworth. Behind excellent fan support, the team routed the Tigers, with Holden Mobley

large margins.

As was expected, tournament play was a different story. In the semi-finals playing Father Ryan, the Red had the game of the year. After weeks of preparation, Father Ryan came out very strong. Holden Mobley went down early in the first quarter with an ankle sprain, so others had to step up for the Big Red. At the end of the third quarter, the team was down eight points, which was by far the biggest deficit we had



On the sidelines

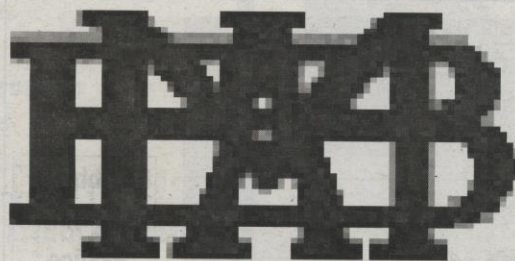
faced all season. Also in the third quarter, Coach Pride was lost for the rest of the game due to two questionable technical fouls. In the fourth quarter, the Big Red stepped up, forcing overtime, where it totally controlled the game. Father Ryan deserves much credit, but the team was able to pull out a victory. Tyler Paslick was the leading scorer with fifteen. Coach McMahan stepped in for Coach Pride, who was suspended for one game because of the two technical fouls, and Coach Mac did a phenomenal job in leading the team to a comeback win, capping off the season with a championship.

In the tournament finals, MBA pulled away from Brentwood High after a very close game to win by twelve points and bring home the championship trophy.

The team looks forward to more success in the three years yet to come. Tee Griscom said of the season, "It was a good year, and hopefully we can do the same next year." Also Holden Mobley said of the season, "It was a great team effort, and through determination and hard work, we proved to be the best team in the city."

Thanks to Coach Pride, Coach McMahan, and Coach Anglin! Roll Red!

To the Lindsley Ruth Award and Its Recipients...



ROLL RED!!!

A Trial for the Ages

By Corey Metzman
Staff Writer

One of MBA's best-kept secrets, the Mock Trial team, is gearing up for the annual battle of intense argumentation, which will be held at the Nashville Courthouse on February 23rd and 24th. In this year's case, an assistant district attorney is being tried for first-degree murder for the killing of Adam Day, a defense attorney from fictional Grosse Point, Tennessee.

Our astute lawyers and witnesses have been divided up into two teams, named the A and B teams. The A team, coached by MBA alumnus and trial lawyer Wade Cowan, was aptly and concisely described by Rashá Harvey, who dubbed it "Junior Domination!" Indeed, the A team is composed of all juniors, with attorneys recruited from the debate team: Max Webster, Will Hannon, Corey Metzman, Tom Wall, and Rashá Harvey. Ready to take the stand and answer the lawyers' questions are the witnesses: Swan Burrus, Clay Money, Wilson Nealy, and Tyler Wright.

The B team, on the other hand, has been meeting separately from the A team.

As such, they remain an enigma, and very little information has been acquired regarding their strategy. What is known however, is that their coach is local attorney Sean Martin, and their ranks consist of a wider grade span, including Freshman George Curtis, Junior Austin Branstetter, and Senior Mock Trial Veteran Gentry Smith.

This year, the team looks to avenge last year's disappointing third-place finish behind Harpeth Hall and Hume Fogg. Although Max Webster received outstanding prosecution attorney last year, the team fell short of its goals overall. Max elaborated on this year's prospects, "After losing almost all of our core group of seniors, some may consider this year a rebuilding year. But I see this year as a fresh opportunity, ripe for success. We have assembled a knowledgeable team and are busily preparing for our shot at the city title."

It does indeed appear that MBA has a chance to dominate, and, considering that perennial contender Harpeth Hall conducted tryouts for spots and has been practicing for months already, it will surely be a trial for the ages.

Government Club Meeting

Can Middle Eastern culture
accept democracy?

How aggressive do we need
to be in the region?

Four qualified experts on Middle Eastern History,
Religion, Politics, and US intervention will answer
your questions at...



6:30 PM in the
Pfeffer auditorium
on February 28th.

Mehta Explores the 24 Phenomenon

And discovers the Class of 2007's Jack Bauer along the way

By Patrick Mehta
Staff Writer

Tuesday afternoon Dr. Neergaard's Chemistry AP class was filled with chatter about America's most excellent television show, *24*. Just as the discussion over Jack's torture techniques came to a close, Dr. Neergaard cynically asserted "Oh, *24*. Did they name it season 6 this year?"

Dr. Neergaard will be surprised to hear the revolutionary changes that have taken place in this season's *24*. *SPOILER* In years past, Jack Bauer fights terrorists who try to set off very destructive weapons on our nation's soil. In season six, the screenwriters have displayed their creative brilliance by pitting Jack against nuclear terrorist attacks.

SPOILER Abu Fayed has managed to acquire five suitcase nukes, one of which he has already set off in Valencia, California. After being tortured for two years by Chinese prison guards, Jack returns to save the day unscathed due to his god-like, pain-absorbing will. But this time his brother, Graem, and father, Phillip, try to stop Jack from implicating the family company.

Also, *24* has experimented with the most contemporary killing/torture techniques including, but not limited to, biting someone's neck, drilling holes in someone's back, stabbing just above the kneecap, injecting 8cc's of Hyoscine-pentothal into the brain, breaking fingers, and "truth serum." It's not all new though; for old-time watchers *24* will still be preserving some of its timeless traditions, like the ticking clock before

every commercial, the low dramatic voices, the CTU torture room, Jack almost dying on a number of occasions, Jack using luggage to sneak onto airplanes, Jack talking on his cell phone loudly while no one hears him, split cameras, and running satcom overlay filters on a loop matrix to trace a phone call.

24 does its best to develop characters, but sadly at least ten minor or major characters must be killed per season. It is hard to bring depth to a character if a bullet is about to enter his body. In fact, Jack recently shot his partner, Curtis Manning, in the neck. Andrew Eskind would like to point out that Wayne Palmer, the brother of assassinated president David

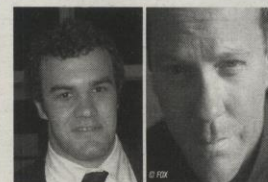
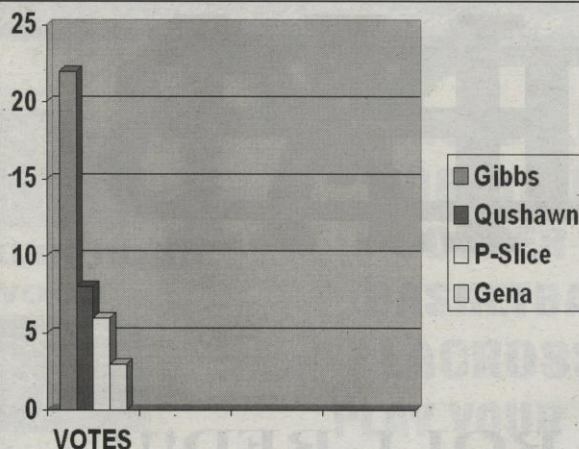
Palmer, sounds like David Chappelle when he's mocking people. Harrison Brown, a recent fan of the show, says, "I'd like to see *24* go in a new direction. I'd like to begin producing *Trapped in CTU 17: Chloe Exposed* so that the world can see all there is to Chloe O' Brian."

Jack is one of the few characters that survive from season to season, although he fakes his death several times, has several gunshot wounds, and has been tortured beyond normal human limits. Sam Moon, a former member of the MBA community, commented, "Ohhh. Um, I've watched like one episode. It was weird. Jack is like bipolar.

He, like, beats up this woman, comes back, and makes out with her."

By far, the most despised character is Sandra Palmer, the President's sister, who complains about civil liberties, wasting a good five minutes on social commentary when Jack could be jumping from helicopters. I mean, like, what's really important here???

Thus we arrive at the most important part of this article, "Who is the senior class's Jack Bauer?" After all, Jack Bauer in only six days has stopped terrorist plots, ranging from super viruses, to nuclear bombs, to high profile assassinations. Many would torture to achieve this prized title, but through vigorous polling and several hours of my time, we have a winner: Andrew Gibbs.



Gibbs and Jack

Other runner ups:

Donesh Ferdowsi, Ben Daniel, Weston Iler, Zach Adkins, Doug Foote, T.J. Hinton, Jonathon Lundy, and Michael Anderson

Jackson Predicts the Academy Award Winners

By Jackson Bull
Staff Writer

This column should not be used for gambling purposes.

Best Actor

Forest Whitaker exhibits an Oscar-winning performance in his accurate portrayal of Uganda's brutal dictator, Idi Amin, in Kevin Macdonald's *The Last King of Scotland*. While you watch Whitaker's terrorizing performance on screen as he hangs his personal physician (played by James McAvoy) by a couple of fish hooks, you are convinced that this is not a movie. Forest Whitaker will definitely take home this award.

Actor in a Supporting Role

Djimon Hounsou's breath-taking and heart-felt performance in Edward Zwick's *Blood Diamond* steals the audience's attention from Leonardo



Forest Whitaker

DiCaprio's ripped body as he desperately tries to save his son from ruthless diamond smugglers. You may not know who this man is now or how to pronounce his name, but you will know on February 25.

Actress in a supporting role

Abigail Breslin is adorable in Jonathan Dayton's *Little Miss Sunshine* and makes Dakota Fanning look like a television actress. She has a solid chance of receiving this award.

Art Direction

Pan's Labyrinth's imaginative sets and characters have not been seen since *Alice in Wonderland*. I feel that this film's elaborate set design certainly deserves the art direction award.

Cinematography

Emmanuel Lubezki's brilliant cinematography in Alfonso Cuarón's *Children of Men* is sure to win at this year's Oscar event. The scene that is sure to win it is the five-minute, hardcore battle scene that was shot all in one take.

Costume Design

Although *Marie Antoinette's* story was dull and the only reason you stayed in the theater was to see (you hoped) Kirsten Dunst's head be cut off, you cannot ignore the very elaborate costume design that gives you something to look at so you don't kill yourself over the fact that YOU JUST WASTED TEN DOLLARS!!

Directing

Martin Scorsese's excellent directing of *The Departed* should finally win him an Oscar. There should be no more breaths breathed on this God-forsaken Earth if another day passes and *Mafia 360* has one Oscar, and Martin Scorsese still has zero.

Best Picture

The Departed, no question.



Matt and Leo are great pals

Kevin Reviews Pan's Labyrinth

By Kevin Thomas
Entertainment Editor

El Laberinto del Fauno (Pan's Labyrinth)—4.0 out of 4.0 stars (Rated R for graphic violence and some language)

Starring Ivana Baquero (*Fragile*, *Rottweiler*), Ariadne Gil (*Bear's Kiss*), Sergi López (*Dirty Pretty Things*, *With a Friend Like Harry*), and Doug Jones (*Adaptation*, *Hellboy*), this beautiful, Spanish-language film evokes emotions like no other movie that I have ever seen. Guillermo del Toro, the director of *Hellboy* and *Blade 2*, brings us a passionate film that centers on a little girl's quest for immortality. After traveling with her mother (Gil) to live with her new step-father, Capitán Vidal (López), who is

band of opposing soldiers in the woods. The film is definitely not for the squeamish.

During several scenes of *Pan's Labyrinth*, I felt very closely connected with Ofelia. For example, there is a scene in which the faun tells Ofelia not to eat anything in a designated room, and, of course, in the very next scene she picks up a grape and eats it. The fairies attempt to tell her not to eat it, but she does so anyway and the consequences are dire. As she was holding the fruit in her hand, I was inwardly shouting to her not to eat it. Del Toro makes you care, makes you want Ofelia to succeed in her three tasks, and I think that this facet makes him a great director and makes Baquero an incredibly convincing actress.

The viewer also embarks on a strange relationship with Ofelia's step-father, Vidal, in which you want him to be punished for killing innocent people during



Ofelia and the Pale Man

his military campaign. Toward the end of the film, when his servant turns on him, I was happy to see him being stabbed several times because I did not like him from the very beginning of the film.

Seeing *Pan's Labyrinth* is really a magical experience because, despite all the gruesome warfare that takes place, a whole new world opens up to us when Ofelia steps into the labyrinth with the faun and all the other mystical creatures, such as the fairies.

This movie is most definitely one of the best films of 2006, and I would highly encourage all of you to enter the world of this modern masterpiece.

The film is almost hypnotic, for there are times when you are unable to avert your eyes from the screen. *Pan's Labyrinth* is a fantasy tale that is made for adults, and it is certainly not for young children. Del Toro shows the viewer many scenes of war violence between the Fascist regime and a

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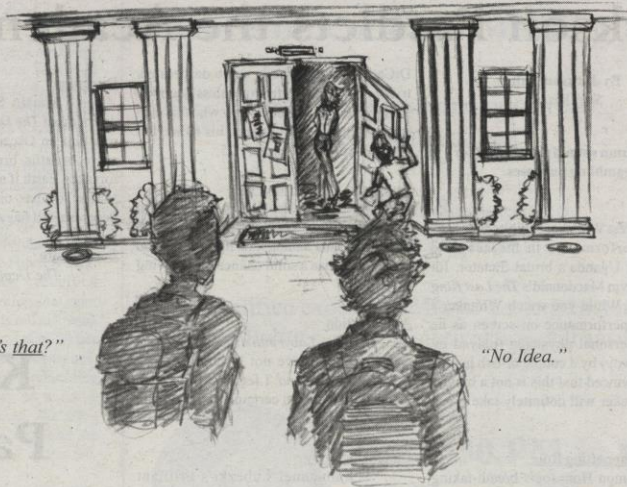
Blast from the Past

"Man, I've had it with single-sex education. There're never any girls around."



"No kidding."

"Who's that?"



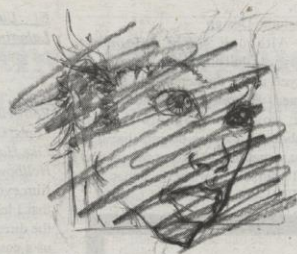
"No Idea."

"Wait a minute..."

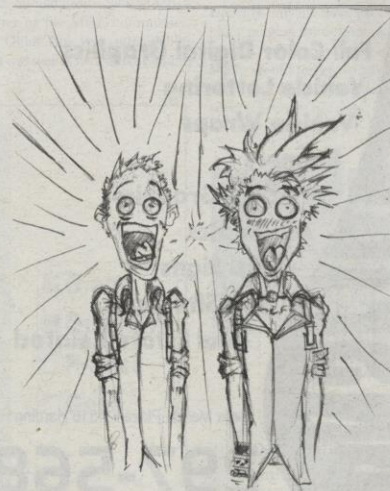


"...Do they..."

"Aren't you gentlemen late for class?"



"---Work here?!?"



Nope, no female students at M.B.A. ...

By Bill Brown, Class of 2004